

# Response To Mighty Missionary Movement

By H. Franklin Paschall

The Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas, Texas, June 1974, asked the new president of the convention to name a special committee on Baptist State Papers. This committee is now reporting to the convention. The first part is a departure from the usual convention report. It is purely personal. I asked the committee to indulge me this privilege.

As a young Baptist preacher in West Kentucky, I found a great sense of identity when my name appeared for the first time in the *Western Record*. Then I felt that somebody beyond my local church and association knew that I was and where I was. A few years later Dr. R. T. Skinner, editor of the *Western Record*, was present at the Blood River Association in west Kentucky when I tried to bring the annual sermon. Much to my surprise, he decided to editorialize on the sermon. What he said was an important boost to a young preacher's spirit and a tremendous encouragement in the gospel ministry. I was and

continued to be grateful for this attention and help. My story is the story of countless others. Today, in a world that is growing increasingly impersonal, this personal dimension in the ministry of Baptist state papers is all the more significant.

There is nothing more distinctly Southern Baptist than Baptist state papers. These papers have been representative of the life of Southern Baptists and a strong support for the work of the convention. Soon after Luther Rice launched his world mission campaign, Baptist papers came into being. They were first individually owned and operated but at the same time they enjoyed the recognition and spiritual support of the associations and conventions of the states in which they were located. It was evident to most that these papers, though individually owned and operated, were denominational assets. Gradually their ownership and management shifted from individuals to denominations so that now all of the thirty-three Baptist state papers in the Southern Baptist Convention are denominationally

owned.

As these papers came into being in response to a mighty missionary movement, it is important to remember that they themselves were possessed of a great missionary purpose. In a sense the purpose of Baptist papers is one, but this purpose has many aspects. This noble missionary purpose has been served well as these papers have informed, indoctrinated, inspired, and unified our people. Throughout the history of the Southern Baptist Convention and more particularly in recent years many other publications have come forth to serve our Baptist causes. Remarkably while these publications with their specialized interests have contributed significantly to our work, they have in no way become substitutes for Baptist state papers. Now, as much as at any time in our history, Baptist state papers are a visible symbol of what we are doing and what we believe as a people and how in the ecstasy and unity of the

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Gathered at the luncheon following the inauguration were three Southern Baptist agency or institution heads and one recently retired. Three of them are former Mississippians. From left to right are Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Seminary; Dr. James L. Sullivan, president emeritus of the Sunday School Board; Dr. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee; and Dr. Grady C. Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board.

## Jackson To Host Metro Advance Conference

The First Baptist Church in Jackson, on Sept. 18, will be the site of one of a series of 33 meetings to be held nation-wide relative to young adults and preschool age children.

The series is called Young Adult-Preschool Metro Advance Conferences, and the meetings will be held in large metropolitan areas with the aim of improving Sunday School skills of young adult and preschool workers.

In Jackson the conference will be sponsored jointly by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and by the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board in Nashville. The Rev. Bryant Cummings is the director of the Mississippi Sunday School Department.

All of the program personalities will be from the Nashville organi-

zation. The first of the conferences is to be held Sept. 8, and they are to continue until March 23, 1976.

Two of the conference directors are former Mississippians. Janet Abernathy, who will be in charge of a conference on babies, creepers, and toddlers, was preschool director at the First Baptist Church in Biloxi and at the Calvary

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## ACTION Plan Promoter Due In Jackson Oct. 7

The new ACTION plan of promoting Sunday School enrollment and attendance will be discussed Oct. 7 in Jackson when the creator of the plan, Rev. E. C. (Andy) Anderson of Florida, will be at First Baptist Church to explain it. Rev. Anderson is now on the

by Don McGregor  
A call for the reaffirmation of a commitment to evangelism and missions on the part of the Southern Baptist Convention rang out as the theme of the inaugural sermon of Dr. Landrum P. Leavell II Saturday during his inauguration as president of New Orleans Seminary.



He said, "It is my conviction that we shall either reaffirm our commitment to evangelism or consign our successors to mediocrity in the fires of evangelism, locosity and obscurity. We were nurtured in a love for the Scriptures, and we grew to strength in our missions response to the lost multitude of this earth. We shall harness our vast resources in a new thrust for claiming our world in the name of our Lord (or we shall surely be divested of our glorious opportunity and sacred responsibility."

Representatives of some 82 colleges, universities, and seminaries were present in the Leavell Chapel on the seminary campus. Dr. Thomas J. DeLaughter of the seminary faculty was the chairman of the inaugural committee and presided during the inaugural program.

Some 12 representatives of Southern Baptist Convention boards, Commissions, and affiliated organizations were also present.

There was a dinner on Friday evening during which a number of local dignitaries delivered greet-

ings. This meeting was addressed by Dr. James L. Sullivan, president emeritus of the Sunday School Board. Dr. Robert S. Magee, chairman of the board of trustees, presided.

### Luncheon Follows

Dr. Ray P. Rust, executive vice-president of the seminary, presided during a luncheon in the seminary cafeteria following the inauguration.

During the inaugural program the investiture of the office was made by Dr. Magee. Greetings were delivered by Dr. Harold K. Graves, president of Golden Gate Seminary, in behalf of the American Association of Theological Schools, and by Dr. W. Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Seminary, in behalf of the South-

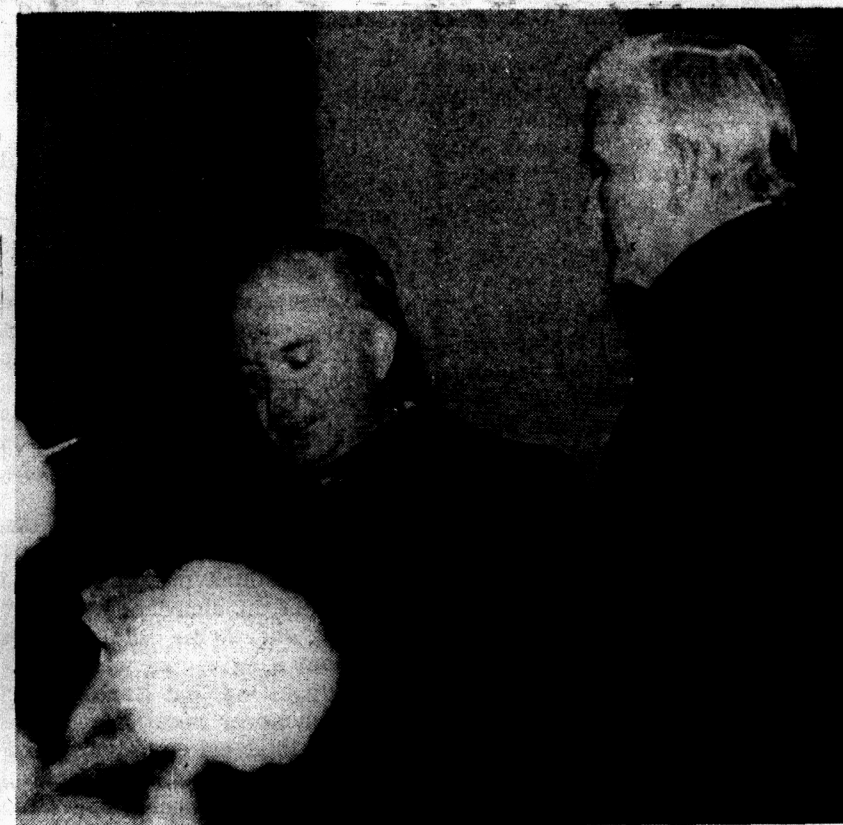
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staff of the Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for the purpose of planning and conducting ACTION enrollment campaigns in associations and at statewide meetings. He was pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Myers, Fla., when he developed the plan.

Dr. A. V. Washburn, secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board, will also be in Jackson with Rev. Anderson. The meeting in the First Baptist Church auditorium will begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 9:30 p.m., according to Rev. Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Development of the ACTION plan took place under Rev. Anderson's leadership while he was pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, where he served for 19 years before his resignation to accept his position with the Sunday School

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Dr. Robert S. Magee, president of the board of trustees of New Orleans Seminary, and Dr. Landrum Leavell II, president of the seminary, examine the medallion symbolizing the office of the president shortly before Dr. Magee placed it about Dr. Leavell's neck, signifying the investiture of the office.

## Baptist Missionaries Leave Mozambique

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries to Mozambique, faced with an "uncertain future in a political climate not conducive to effective mission work," have withdrawn to South Africa, according to Davis Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. John A. Poe, who had arrived in Mozambique on August 9 after transferring from Brazil, flew to Johannesburg in early September.

The only other Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Mozambique, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ernest Harvey, had already left

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## Commission Adopts Resolutions On Bicentennial, Christian Citizenship

The Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has approved resolutions concerning the Bicentennial Observance and Christian Citizenship, according to Dr. J. Clark Hensley, executive director.

The commission also has approved sponsorship of the pilot Smoking Cessation Clinic to be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Jackson, in November; a Clergyman's Conference on Cancer; and Human Relations Workshop for Jackson and Meridian in January. Plans have been forwarded for 1977 emphasis on the Family and Contemporary Moral Problems.

Literature projects approved include a tract on Human Relations and on Christian Action Committee Guidelines.

The commission has approved a budget for 1976 of \$66,375 with an anticipated allocation from the Cooperative Program of \$64,000. The resolutions on the Bicentennial and Christian Citizenship fol-

low:

### Resolution

#### Bicentennial Observance

WHEREAS, the citizens of our nation are preparing for and participating in a Bicentennial observance, and

WHEREAS, religious liberty is

a most important facet of our heritage of freedom, and

WHEREAS, Baptists have had significant roles in securing and perpetuating this freedom through the First Amendment of the Constitution;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we encourage the Baptist churches of Mississippi to appropriately participate in the Bicentennial observance by:

1. A renewed emphasis upon Religious Liberty and its corollary, Separation of Church and State,

2. Calling our people to a re-

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## Eight Texas Churches Among SBC's 10 Largest

NASHVILLE (BP) — Eight Texas churches dominated the 10 largest churches in the nationwide Southern Baptist Convention, according to statistics compiled here.

The 18,506-member First Baptist Church, Dallas, continued its long-time position as the largest church in the nation's largest

Protestant-evangelical body, based on statistics through the end of the 1974 church year. That's a 4,968-member increase over the church's convention leading total of 13,538 through 1965, the last year for which compiled top 10 membership figures are available.

The statistics compiled by the

research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, revealed that 18 churches, out of 34,734 SBC congregations across 50 states, exceeded the 6,000-member level. The 1965 statistics recorded 18 churches with 5,000 or more members. The latest figures tabulated

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## August Gifts Below 1974 For First Time

For the first time in 1975 Cooperative Program receipts for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in August were less than for the same month of 1974.

The August total for this year was \$437,592. This was \$68,111 below the August receipts for 1974.

The total Cooperative Program receipts for the first eight months of this year are still ahead of the same period for last year by \$229,861. Through the eight months of 1975 the total has been \$4,226,255. This is \$173,745 below the budget figure for the period of \$4.4 million.

The picture for August is "much brighter than it would seem to be by the figures," declared Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. It was a five-Sunday month and ended on Sunday, therefore some of the receipts which normally would be entered on August books will show up instead in September.

"Nevertheless, we are still behind in the budget," said Dr. Kelly, "and goals we had establish-

ed as a convention for a ministry around the world are in danger of not being met because of it."

He added, "The interest of Mississippi Baptists in the causes of Christ all over the world remains unchanged. These challenges will not go unheeded."

### SBC Receipts Ahead Through 11 Months

NASHVILLE (BP) — With one month to go in the 1974-75 fiscal year, national Cooperative Program unified budget receipts remained ahead of last year's 11-month total, showing a more than \$2.9 million increase.

Undesignated Cooperative Program contributions from 33 state conventions covering 50 states amounted to \$37,942,639, some 8.40 percent ahead of the 1973-74 total of \$35,002,040.

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## N. O. Seminary

## Inaugurates New President

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ern Baptist Theological Presidents.

Dr. Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the summons, during which he pointed out that churches are calling for the finest in theological education. The Scripture lesson was read by Dr. Leavell's brother-in-law, Robert S. Mann Jr., of Newnan, Ga.

The invocation was delivered by Dr. Grady Cothen, president of the Sunday School Board and former president of New Orleans Seminary; the dedicatory prayer was delivered by Dr. Robert E. Naylor, president of Southwest-

ern Seminary; and the benediction was delivered by Dr. Robert L. Lee, executive secretary-treasurer of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

## Special Music

Dr. Sidney Buckley presented special music, "Here Is My Life." During the dinner on Friday Dr. Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, delivered the invocation; and Dr. Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, delivered the benediction.

Dr. Leavell is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary with both bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees. He went to the seminary presidency from the

pastorate of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas. His other pastorates had all been in Mississippi. They were Union Church, Magnolia; Crosby Church, Crosby; First Church, Charleston; and First Church, Gulfport.

He has been first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and president of the Pastors Conference. He has been president of the board of trustees of the Sunday School Board and a member of the Home Mission Board. He served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and in Texas has served as a member of the Education Commission, the Committee of 100, the Cooperative Program Study Committee, and the Administrative Committee.

## Father Was Pastor

He is a native of Ripley, Tenn. and attended public school in Newnan, Ga., where his father, Dr. Leonard O. Leavell, was pastor for 10 years to his death. He is a graduate of Mercer University, Macon, Ga.

He became president of the seminary on Jan. 1.

During his address Dr. Leavell declared, "Our seminaries are in the heat of the battle. In large measure our denominational future depends upon our product. What students are taught, or perhaps what is caught during seminary days will be the deciding factor."

He pointed out that the task of the seminary has three facets. He listed these as doctrinal, denominational, and devotional.

Under the portion on doctrine Dr. Leavell said, "If we really believe in the priesthood of the believer, a cherished tenet of Baptist Christians, we must accept the freedom to read and interpret the Scriptures for ourselves under the illuminating pres-

ence of the Holy Spirit. There is latitude in interpretation so long as these variations do not consist of a denial or refutation of the Scriptures, or detract from the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

## Seminaries Responsible

In discussing the denominational portion he pointed out that if the churches fail it will be the seminaries that was responsible. He affirmed a commitment to "live my life and exert my influence for the Kingdom of God through the Southern Baptist Convention." He added, "There can be little no significance to my life standing alone, even if I built the nation's largest independent church, but there can be a contribution through my identity with something far greater and longer lasting than myself."

He declared that educationally he is a product of the Cooperative Program and has no patience with "those who constantly criticize our program of missions support, nor do I respect those pastors who receive a quality theological education from our seminaries and then fail to lead their churches in missions support."

He remembered that his father had told him not to pull out when he saw inconsistencies and imperfections in the denominational program and structure but to "try to get in the middle of the decision-making process and use whatever influence I had to get things changed for the better."

In discussing the devotional facet he said, "Seminary years must be more than a time to gain academic and practical tools for the struggle against Hell's minions. These must be years of deepening, widening relationship with Jesus Christ. There must be the creation of inner spiritual reservoirs for the heat of the day and the intensity of the struggle."



## Dispute Centers On Abraham's Tomb

HEBRON — Jews pray outside the walls of the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron in Israeli-occupied Jordan. The mosque, a shrine for Jews, Muslims and Christians, has become involved in an international dispute involving Jordan, Israel and the United Nations.

Dating from the 13th Century, the mosque is built on the ruins of a Crusader church, which, in turn, was built on the "double cave" of Machpelan, the traditional burial site of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their wives. It is located 18 miles south of Jerusalem. Both Arabs and Jews revere the site since both consider Abraham the father of their people.

Dispute over access to the Hebron shrine has simmered for a long time. During the British mandate over Palestine, Jews were allowed only to the first seven steps leading to the caves, and under Jordanian rule, Jews were not permitted on the site at all. Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Jews and Muslims have shared access to the sacred tombs on a complicated timetable but sometimes the two groups confronted each other and scuffles ensued.

In early August, Israel proposed a plan under which Muslims would be restricted to use one of the caves containing the tombs of Isaac and Rebecca, while Jews will use the cave where Abraham and Sarah and Jacob and Leah are buried. This brought complaints from Muslims and religious Jews and from the Jordanian Prime Minister, who cabled U. N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim about "serious Israeli measures taken against the sanctity and physical integrity" of the mosque. Israel rejected as "completely baseless" the Jordanian charges alleging violation of Muslim religious rights and said that Jordan's record of forbidding Jewish access to the shrine and other Holy Places for 19 years "surely denies the Jordanian government any moral standing in such issues." — Religious News Service Photo by Isaac Berez.

## Baptist Missionaries Leave Mozambique

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the newly-independent country in August for furlough in the United States. The Harveys, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to Mozambique, moved there in August 1973.

Saunders, after talking with Poe by telephone, said that permission had been refused for the operation of the Baptist Bible Institute. He also said the missionaries were having difficulties in financial transactions due to governmental restrictions and the overall political climate made it impossible to continue effective ministries.

The Poes will stay in South Africa at least for the present, seeking ways to relate to Portuguese Baptists who are among about 100,000 Portuguese residing in South Africa. They will also attempt to minister to the Baptists they left in Mozambique through literature ministries and other indirect methods.

There are two Baptist churches in Johannesburg that are members of the Baptist Convention of Mozambique. The Poes will also relate to those congregations, according to Saunders.

Saunders also indicated modest funds and limited Baptist property had to be left behind until some future date when missionaries return.

## BWA Revises Figures

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eral hundred Swedish people who registered on a day-to-day basis, she noted. BWA officials had estimated an attendance of about 8,500, based on advanced registrations.

Robert S. Denny, general secretary of BWA, said 92 countries in the largest number of countries ever represented at a world Baptist meeting but not the largest attendance. Previous highs in both attendance and representation were at the 1965 congress in Miami Beach, Fla., with 19,598 registered from 79 countries. An attendance of 8,558 from 79 countries was registered at the Tokyo BWA meeting in 1970.

Countries with the largest representation in Stockholm were the United States, 5,853; Sweden, 2,131; West Germany and Canada, with 268 each; Denmark, 178; Australia, 177; Norway, 161; and Brazil, 119. All other countries had under 100, headed by Hungary, with 68.

## SBC Gifts - - -

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The undesignated Cooperative Program receipts, combined with another \$35,146,648 in designated gifts, totaled \$73,089,286 in total gifts on the national level during the first 11 months. That is an 8.52 percent or more than \$5.7 million increase.

The continued financial growth was shored up by strong giving in August. Total undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for the month totaled \$3,642,789—a 10.82 percent or \$355,696 increase over August, 1974.

Another \$579,036 in designated contributions in August brought the total for the month to \$4,221,825. That's a 14.25 percent jump over August, 1974. Designated contributions alone jumped 41.86 percent, rising from \$408,177 last August to the \$579,036 figure.

## Commission Adopts Two Resolutions

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dedication to those principles that have really contributed to the greatness of our nation, such as

(1) Freedom to worship and serve God according to dictates of conscience as long as that freedom does not infringe upon the rights of others, and

(2) Freedom of State from Church control and tax support and freedom of Church from State control and tax support,

3. Calling upon the churches to participate in the 1976 Christian Citizenship emphasis of the Mississippi Baptist Convention,

4. Encouraging the Baptist Associations, by a Bicentennial Committee, to solicit the interest and concern of the churches in implementing the theme "Let Christ's Freedom Ring."

5. Suggesting that Baptist churches, whenever possible, cooperate with the local community and or county Bicentennial celebrations and that church leaders use their influence to the end that the religious heritage of our nation be given a prominent place in such community observances, and

6. Seeking to characterize the spirit of the patriot Carl Schurz who said, "Our country, right or wrong. When right, to keep it right; when wrong, to put it right."

## Christian Citizenship

WHEREAS, Christian Citizenship is the theme of the Mississippi Baptist Convention 47th emphasis, and

WHEREAS, Christian Citizenship is an area of concern regu-

larly assigned the Christian Action Commission by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and

WHEREAS, the Christian Action Commission gladly cooperates with the Convention themes from year to year and supports wholeheartedly the Cooperative Program causes of the Convention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we commend the increasing number of Baptist church members who are participating in the citizenship processes by

(1) Offering themselves as candidates for office,

(2) Registering to vote and voting,

(3) Being involved in precinct work for candidates and causes,

(4) Supporting financially those political causes that appeal to the Christian conscience, and

(5) Jury duty and assuming other citizenship responsibilities;

2. That we call upon our Baptist people to continue to be concerned for law enforcement and equal protection and justice under the law and to work for those means that would insure the speedy judicial process of those charged as offenders of the law, and

3. That we decry any attempts toward civil religion and encourage a return to Christian patriotism that enthrones God, respects law and authority and the rights of all citizens and therefore works for the kind of justice expressed by the Statue of Liberty inscription "Bring me your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

## State Papers - - -

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spirit we work together to fulfill the mission committed unto us by our living Lord. It is, therefore, altogether fitting that this convention should be aware always of the enormous influence of Baptist state papers in its work of "eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the proclamation of the gospel," and that every encouragement and support should be given to the enlargement and strengthening of the ministry of these papers.

In the 1940 Southern Baptist Convention Annual, Dr. L. R. Scarborough is quoted in support of Baptist state papers: "These papers are a fundamental necessity to the promotion, expansion, and growth of our churches and the causes of Christ. To be without them or to fail to support them adequately is denominational suicide. The denomination has yet to come to the highest and best evaluation and utilization of these mighty assets for the ongoing of Christ's kingdom."

Southern Baptists responded to this ringing challenge from one of its great leaders by setting a goal of 500,000 in circulation by 1945, the centennial of the convention. In 1940 there were 19 Baptist papers with a total circulation of 192,312. In 1945 there was a total circulation of 547,254. In succeeding conventions, reports were made regularly and growth in circulation was experienced. In 1952 a goal of one million was set for 1953. When the report on Baptist state papers was made in 1953, there was a total circulation of 1,017,496. Growth continued, and in 1960 circulation had reached 1,465,471.

At the 1961 Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Dr. Louie D. Newton brought the report of the committee on Baptist state papers. The following paragraphs from this report should be brought to our attention: "Now please fasten your safety belts. The committee, with the hearty endorsement of the state secretaries, the state editors, and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, with added personal endorsement by President Ramsey Pollard and Executive Secretary Porter Routh, is recommending that Southern Baptists undertake a goal of 1,750,000 by 1964 and a goal of 2,000,000 by 1980." By 1964 circulation had risen to 1,522,972. The present circulation is 1,757,035. Moving from this point to the goal of 2,000,000 by 1980 is not an easy undertaking. As Southern Baptists we must commit ourselves in the spirit of Christ to meet this challenge.

Your committee on Baptist State Papers therefore recommends: (1) that we reaffirm our minimum goal of 2,000,000 by 1980; (2) that we commend the idea of a vigorous campaign in all the states to increase the circulation of our Baptist papers; (3) that we encourage the churches to include Baptist papers in their budgets; (4) that this committee be continued for another year to work with the editors in strengthening the ministry, and increasing the appeal and impact of Baptist state papers.

## COMMITTEE ON BAPTIST STATE PAPERS

Glen E. Braswell  
Richard A. Jackson  
Julian H. Pentecost  
Andrew W. Tampling  
Jaroy Weber, ex officio  
H. Franklin Paschall, chairman

## Jackson To Host Metro Advance Conference

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Baptist Church in Jackson before assuming her present position as preschool consultant at the Sunday School Board. She is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton.

Joe Haynes will lead a conference on married young adults. He was minister of education at Ridgcrest Baptist Church in Jackson for two years. Just before becoming consultant in young adult work for the Sunday School Board, Haynes was an associate in the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department.

Other conferences scheduled and their leaders are Cradle Roll, Patsy Driggers; Twos and Threes, Florrie Ann Lawton; Fours and Fives, Nora Padgett; College Young Adults, Tom Baker; Single Young Adults, Manell Ezell; and Church Staff and General Officers, Neil Jackson.

The conferences will last 2½ hours. In addition to Mississippi there will be conferences in Oklahoma, Georgia, Washington, D. C. Texas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Missouri, Illinois, California, and Arizona.

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churches in the over 6,000 range only.

Listed in order of total membership, the top 18 SBC churches through 1974 are:

1. First Church, Dallas, Tex., 18,506 members; 2. Bellevue, Memphis, Tenn., 9,803; 3. First, Lubbock, Tex., 9,790; 4. First, Amarillo, Tex., 9,012; 5. First, San Antonio, Tex., 8,332; 6. First, Houston, Tex., 7,941; 7. First Southern, Del City, Okla., 7,888; 8. First, Beaumont, Tex., 7,080; 9. First, Wichita Falls, Tex., 7,045; 10. Travis Avenue, Fort Worth, Tex., 7,040; 11. Dauphin Way, Mobile, Ala., 6,595; 12. First, Tulsa, Okla., 6,465; 13. Cliff Temple, Dallas, Tex., 6,421; 14. South Main, Houston, Tex., 6,170; 15. Walnut Street, Louisville, Ky., 6,137; 16. First, Baton Rouge, La., 6,090; 17. First, Midland, Tex., 6,075; 18. First, Jacksonville, Fla., 6,074.

Out of 12,515,842 Southern Baptists in 33 state conventions covering all 50 states, the top 18 churches represent a combined membership of 142,462. That's only 1.14 percent of the total.

Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., which had been the SBC's second largest for many years until two churches from West Texas moved ahead of it in 1965, regained the number two spot in 1974, with 9,803 members. Those two West Texas churches (First Baptist of Lubbock and First Baptist of Amarillo), which had been second and third respectively, moved back into third and fourth places, with 9,790 and 9,012 members respectively.

The only other non-Texas Baptist church in the top 10 besides Bellevue, is First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., not ranked in 1965, which took the 1974 seventh slot, with 7,888 members. Another church not ranked in 1965, First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., is ranked sixth through 1974, with 7,941 members.

The top 18 for 1974 include 11 Texas churches, with two Oklahoma representatives and single representatives from Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Florida.

Only three churches from the 1965 top 18 do not appear in the 1974 top 18. They are First Baptist Church, Atlanta, formerly 10th with 6,041 members (now with 5,620); First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, formerly 12th with 5,881 members (now 5,860); and Broadway Baptist Church, Fort

Worth, Tex., formerly 17th, until 5251 members (now with 4,857). The Houston and Del City churches and First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., which holds the 18th slot in the 1974 figures with 6,074 members, are the new representatives in the top 18.

In terms of growth, the three new representatives in the top 18 owe their ranking to tremendous spurts in membership.

Between 1964 and 1970, First Southern, Del City, increased 2,982 and then added another 3,290 members, 1970 through 1974, for a cumulative increase of 6,272. The main growth of First Church, Houston, came 1970 through 1974, when it recorded a 4,036 increase. First Church, Jacksonville, also recorded its major increase, 1970 through 1974, adding 2,115 new members.



Jackson



Lawton



Abernathy



Haynes



Ezell



Driggers



Padgett



Baker





A representative group of campers and counselors who come to camp each week.



Camp Staff for 1975—front row (L to R) Paul Harrell, camp director; Tim Taylor, lifeguard; Harold Johnson, assistant camp director; Randy Rogers, unit leader; back row (L to R) Bob Willis, Keith Thrash, unit leaders; Mrs. Reece McCullough, nurse; Harrel Hill, unit leader.



Counselor Henry Trest and a camper take time out for sharing.

## Royal Ambassador Camping Season Ends

The 1975 Royal Ambassador Camping season concluded with hundreds of boys experiencing the joys and thrills of summer camping.

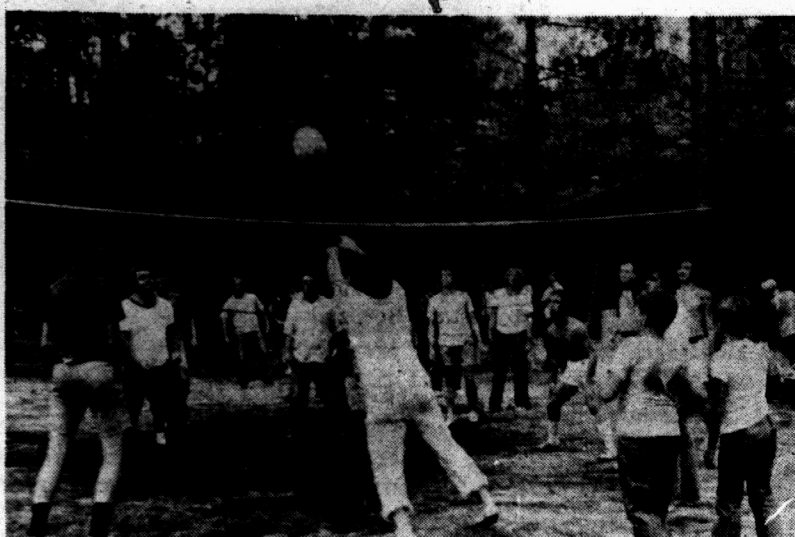
The basic purpose and objective in this camping ministry is derived from Luke 2:52 — "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in

favour with God and man." Its aim is to develop the total life of the individual. Therefore, the camping program is designed to meet the spiritual needs of all boys.

This is accomplished through the varied and balanced activities of the camp program. The many pastors, other church staff members, and

laymen who serve as counselors make Royal Ambassador Camp meaningful for all boys attending. The camps are conducted

under sponsorship of the Brotherhood Department, Rev. E. L. Howell, director. Paul Harrell, associate, is camp director.



A competitive volleyball game between counselors and staff.



Boys enjoy engaging in the various crafts.



Many sport skills such as archery are taught at camp.

## Action Plan Promoter Due In Jackson Oct. 7

(Continued from page 1) Board. He will work with state convention and associational leaders to plan and conduct ACTION enrollment campaigns. He also will conduct ACTION Sunday School enrollment plan orientation sessions for state convention leaders.

According to Dr. Washburn, ACTION is the most extensive and intensive plan ever devised for Southern Baptist Sunday Schools. The philosophy is to take the "action" to the people by enrolling anyone who is not enrolled in another church, enrolling people anywhere and under any circumstance, and the only requirement is that the prospect give his consent.



Anderson



Washburn

During two years of using the plan at Riverside Baptist Church the report is that the enrollment grew from just over 1,000 to 4,000 and the attendance increased by the same percentage.

The meeting at First Baptist Church in Jackson is open to anyone who is interested in attending, Rev. Cummings said.

## Lucien Coleman Sr., Dies In Louisville

MEMPHIS (BP) — Lucien E. Coleman Sr., former Arkansas legislator, attorney, Southern Baptist denominational leader and pastor, died Sept. 4, following his death two days earlier in Louisville, Ky.

Coleman, a lawyer and legislator for 21 years in Arkansas before ordination to the ministry, had been living in Louisville since his retirement from the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission about six years ago. He had served denominational agencies for more than 15 years as assistant executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, Brotherhood director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and field serv-

ice consultant for the Brotherhood Commission.

At the time of his death, he was assistant to the pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

Coleman, who was 71, was the father of Lucien E. Coleman Jr., professor of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Other survivors include his second wife, the former Evelyn Douglas (his first wife, the former Beulah Mae Mallard, died in 1969); another son, Robert F. Coleman of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, E. M. (Buddy) Coleman of Memphis, retired comptroller of the Brotherhood Commission; six grandchildren.

## Graham Plans No Let-Up In Number Of Crusades

LUBBOCK, Tex. (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham emphasized here that despite a recent misunderstanding, he is not intending to cut down on evangelistic crusades.

"I intend to continue crusades as long as I have the breath and the strength," he said at a press conference, explaining that his team has only decided to curb appearances at massive stadiums with crowds of up to 80,000 persons.

"It's so exhausting to try to hold the attention of crowds that size and the TV audience as well," Mr. Graham commented. "I would much rather go to the universities . . . and the smaller arenas and reach more students. The campus is the most important and strategic place to go."

Several days earlier, reporters had interpreted comments made in Dallas by evangelist Leighton Ford, vice-president of the Graham association and Mr. Graham's brother-in-law, as indicating that Mr. Graham was planning to cut back on evangelistic crusades.

"He took some things I had said combined it with some shift of emphasis on his own work, and it came out all backwards," Mr. Graham said.

In Lubbock for an eight-day West Texas Crusade, the famed preacher declared that "to read the story of Lubbock is one of the phenomenal stories of our generation. I feel like I'm sitting in the middle of a great deal of history."

One of the city's church leaders who gave strong backing to the Graham crusade is Dr. Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church and president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Mr. Graham said it was through the invitations of Dr. Weber and other local pastors that he had decided to come to Lubbock.

An estimated 42,000 persons were in the bleachers of Jones Stadium on the opening night of the crusade. After hearing greetings from Mayor Roy Bass, hymn singing by Ethel Waters and George Beverly Shea, and a sermon by Mr. Graham, more than 950 came forward for counseling.

Following his usual custom of basing part of the sermon on current news, Mr. Graham said, "There was a 19-year-old man buried here in Lubbock yesterday afternoon. He and his companions had decided to kick the habit of drugs. This boy said, 'I'm going to take just one more trip and then I'm finished.' On his last trip, he died."

The evangelist declared that despite all the changes in the world today, "God has not changed in His love. If you were the only person in the world, He would have sent His Son for you."

RICHMOND — A group of Colombia MKs (children of missionaries) sang at the Woman's Missionary Union Conference at Ridgecrest, N. C., recently. The group is made up of MKs on furlough in the States.

## Homecoming At Sylvaarena, Wesson

On Sunday, Sept. 14, the Sylvaarena Church of Wesson, will have its annual Homecoming Day. The guest speaker for the morning service at 11 o'clock will be a former pastor, Rev. Jack Courtney. A special offering will be taken for the Cemetery Trust Fund.

There will be a Dinner - on - the grounds following the morning service. An afternoon service of song and worship is scheduled for 1:15. Rev. Wayne Griffith is pastor.

## Church Library Meeting

The Mississippi Baptist Church Library Organization will meet Oct. 24-25 at First Baptist Church, Cleveland.

## Revival Dates

Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg: Sept. 14-19; with the "Living Word Evangelistic Team" Don Boyett, music evangelist and Bob Hollas, preacher; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, and weekday 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Highland, Vicksburg: Sept. 14-18; services Sunday night 7; Monday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Howard Aultman of First Church, Columbia, evangelist; Paul Padgett of First Church, Magee, singer; Rev. James E. Messer, pastor.

Beacon Street, Philadelphia; (Neshoba) Sept. 14-19; Services 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dr. Henry E. Hight, pastor, evangelist; James Moore, Minister of Music, Trinity, Philadelphia, in charge of music.

## Grady H. Smith Passes In Hburg Hospital

Rev. Grady H. Smith, a retired Mississippi Baptist minister, died Sept. 7 in a Hattiesburg hospital after suffering a stroke at his home in Petal on Sept. 1.

Rev. Smith, who had retired because of a disability, was 68. Retirement was caused by a heart condition.

Funeral services were Sept. 9 at the Cartersville Baptist Church in Smith with the pastor, Rev. Leland Hogan, in charge. He was assisted by Rev. Marcus Finch, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Oak Grove, and Rev. Van Windham, who is retired.

Rev. Smith attended Clarke College and Mississippi College. He held pastorates at Leesburg and Paul Truitt Churches in Rankin County, at Spring Field Church in Scott County, at First Baptist Church of Sharon in Jones County, and at Sylvaarena Church in Smith County. He served as missionary in Smith, Jasper, Perry, and Greene counties. He had also served as an associate in the Cooperative Missions Department.

He is survived by his wife, Lizzie, and two children, Ella Ruth and Gerald. There are three grandchildren.

TAEJON, South Korea (RNS)—gelistic work in the Korea military shows many positive results. The Korea Baptist Mission's evangelistic work in the Republic of Korea military men reached by the Baptist mission during a 27-month period (Jan. 1, 1973 - March 31, 1975) made some kind of "spiritual decision."

# Largest Group Of Messengers At SBC From Church Staffs

NASHVILLE (BP) — A study of messengers attending the 1975 Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach in June indicates that the largest percentage were over 40 years old and came from churches with a membership below 1,000.

Other data indicates that the largest percentage of them — 49 percent — work on local church staffs, 60.8 percent were male, 78.8 percent arrived at the convention by car and a large percentage had what might be considered small travel expenses.

The statistics are based on 4,694 responses out of 16,421 persons from 46 states who registered at the 118th annual session of the 130-

year-old SBC.

"A check shows that the state distribution of the respondents closely matches the state distribution of the total registered messengers. This would indicate that the survey participants likely mirror the characteristics and views of all messengers quite accurately," said Martin Bradley, manager of research services for the SBC Sunday School Board. Bradley's department conducted the survey for the SBC Executive Committee.

Age differential, while falling predominantly in the over 40 category, was broadly spread, with 14.8 percent in the 45-49 category, 14.5 percent in the 40-44 category;

13.7 percent, 50-54; 13.3 percent, 60 and up; 11.4 percent, 35-39; 10.4 percent, 55-59; 8.8 percent, 18-29; 8.5 percent, 30-34; and 3.2 percent, under 18.

Data on church membership size of messengers revealed 28.3 percent in the 500-999 range, 24.7 percent in the 300-499 range; 22 percent in the 1,000 and up range; 13.1 percent in the 200-299 range and 10.3 percent up to 199.

Vocational background fell heavily into the local church staff category (49 percent), with only an additional 8.3 percent combined in the categories of home and foreign missions, associational staffs, evangelists and state and SBC agency denominational workers.

(More than one-half of the 8.3 percent — 4.8 percent — came from associational staffs; 2.6 percent came from state convention staffs, 1.9 percent from home and foreign mission fields, and 1.2 percent from SBC agency staffs. Evangelists represented only 0.3 percent of the total.)

However, wives of men in all those categories tabulated 16.7 percent, increasing the percentage of persons affiliated with professional religious vocations to at least 74 percent.

But statistics showed that up to 26 percent probably fell into the category of laity—persons not affiliated professionally with a church or denominational agency.

Homemaking ranked 6.5 percent, "secular" — other, 9.2 percent and not responding, 10.3 percent (26 percent total). Most of those not responding to that particular item, Bradley said, probably fall into the area of lay vocations and may not have understood how to indicate occupation on the computer card.

While the largest percentage (78.8) arrived by car, most of the others (21.2 percent) arrived by plane. The largest percentage of the travelers both traveled and lived frugally. Thirty-five percent said their estimated expense to and from Miami Beach was \$100 to \$200, with 20.5 percent in the \$50 to \$100 range and 16.4 percent

in the \$200 to \$300 range.

The survey also indicated that 65.6 percent estimated they spent only \$100 to \$200 while in Miami Beach and 20.9 percent, \$200 to \$300.

The messengers were asked to respond, based on Southern Baptist churches they knew, about which two areas seem to call for the greatest attention at this time — outreach, doctrine, leadership training, social-moral issues, missions, new member orientation.

Outreach headed the list with 53.8 percent, followed by leadership training, 38.2 percent; doctrine, 33.2 percent; new member orientation, 25.8 percent, social-moral issues, 19 percent and missions 17.6 percent.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION  
EDITORIAL

## Churches Threatened By ERA

We have watched with some concern as the "women's lib" movement has gained strength, and as more and more state legislatures have been swept into the movement to write the plan into the constitution of the nation. Right now, only a few more states are needed to make the Equal Rights Amendment a part of our constitution.

Many Christians and church leaders have either approved of the movement as desirable "social action," or have shrugged their shoulders and ignored it, feeling that if this is what the nation wants it is all right. They have failed to realize that there are facets in the law which could have a tragic effect upon the freedom of every home, every church and every Christian in America.

The home, and especially the parent and children relationship, could be seriously effected by some suggested plans for government child care. This appears to follow the communist pattern, and cer-

tainly is not something which we want in America.

An article in the current issue of the national publication, *The Christian Reader* points out the danger to churches in the proposed amendment. We wish that every American Christian could read it.

Discussing the amendment the article says, "The Equal Rights Amendment is a proposed constitutional amendment which would impose a strict bar on discrimination on the basis of sex, and impose an obligation on the federal government to make sure that sex discrimination is eliminated from every facet of our life touched by the government."

The proposed amendment states clearly that "equality of right under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because of sex," and "Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

This amendment sounds innocent enough as far as the churches are

concerned, but suppose some of the "women's lib" group brings charges against a church concerning matters of ordination, calling of pastors, etc., what will happen? Of course there will be a denial that such dangers exist, but listen to what the proponents of the legislation are saying.

The *Christian Reader* article continues, "The National Organization for Women in its official booklet called 'Revolution: Tomorrow is NOW', makes the following demands: (1) that churches and seminaries immediately stop their 'sexist' doctrines that assign a different role to men and women, (2) that seminaries recruit, financially aid, employ and promote women theologians and theological students on an equal basis with men, (3) that federal statutes be amended and enforced to deprive churches of their right to discriminate on the basis of sex, and (4) that tax exemption be withdrawn from any church actively opposed to abortion."

Do not these statements alarm you as a Christian and as a church member? If they do not, perhaps you need to reread the last paragraph, and underscore "sexist doctrines," "recruit, financially aid, employ and promote women theologians and theological students," "deprive," "tax exemption" and "abortion."

Do you want the federal courts telling your church that it must change its practices concerning the ordination of and choosing of pastors and deacons?

Do you want them to require that the churches and denomination educate and use as pastors, women who say that they are preachers? (Maybe a church will choose to do that, but do we want the government to require it?)

Do we want tax exemption of our churches and institutions taken away because they do not agree with "women's libbers" on ordination, pastoral ministry, or abortion?

This is what is being requested by ERA proponents.

It is just one of the dangerous facets of this legislation, but it is one which could have a direct effect upon every church and church member in America.

I do not believe that most Baptists want such a law in our land. I hope that we shall pray and work to prevent its passage.



THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE. ISA 26:3

## A Word Of Thanks

We commend the mayor and commissioners of Jackson for their action last week in passing an ordinance forbidding the opening of large retail establishments on Sunday. An old ordinance prohibiting such opening had been declared unconstitutional, and recent weeks had seen the spread of the opening of the stores on Sunday. Concerned citizens, including business leaders of the city, and some of the retail merchants themselves, had pressed the city governing body for action, and after some weeks of discussion, an ordinance was adopted last week. It becomes effective the first of October. We are convinced that a large majority of the citizens of Jackson feel a sense of gratitude for the action.

The new law allows the small convenience stores to be open on Sunday afternoon, but halts the trend of large establishments being open on the day. While we do not approve of the opening of the small stores, we recognize that there may be some need for them. There is no valid reason for the opening of the larger stores. If

someone argues that he has a right to shop on Sunday if he so desires, the same argument says that the store owners have a right to be closed on Sunday if they desire. There can be no argument that people need the day in order to be able to buy groceries, since only so much can be spent for groceries, and when the stores are open six days a week, with many late at night, and some 24 hours a day, there is no reason that people cannot find the time to buy what they need. A little planning ahead certainly will make provision for what is required on Sunday.

We appreciated the mayor's comments concerning the "quality of life" in Jackson, that we do not need to lose. We fully agree with him, for we have seen the condition in some of the major metropolitan areas of the nation, where it appears that Sunday is just another business day. We hope that it never will become like that in Jackson.

So we say, "Thank you Mr. Mayor, and commissioners. We stand behind you 100% in this action you have taken."

### NEWEST BOOKS

## Dr. Swor's Book To Be Available In Third Printing

**DOES IT REALLY MATTER?** By Chester Swor and Scott Cook (Printed by Hederman Brothers, paper, 91 pp.) The stimulating youth book by Chester Swor and Scott Cook, originally published in April of 1974, will be available in its third printing by October 1 or shortly thereafter. The second printing was exhausted in the spring of 1975, having reached readers in almost all the states and a fine readership overseas. As with his previous youth books, Dr. Swor asked a young person to be his co-author, choosing Scott Cook, then president of the student body at Mississippi College. After studying the responses to a questionnaire sent to church-active young people in ten states, the two authors chose the problems and decisions to be discussed in this book. They are the problems and decisions that confront youth today.

**DOES IT REALLY MATTER?** has been enthusiastically praised by youth readers, youth counselors, parents, pastors, and other church and public school staff members. Though all the chapters have had their individual appeal, the largest number of expressions of gratitude have come for the chapter, "Does It Really Matter That I Wait for Marriage?" This chapter deals with premarital sex, which chapter was requested urgently by 95% of the young people who responded to the questionnaire. In view of the controversy stirred by Mrs. Ford's recent expressions on a national TV program, the chapter is being widely used by young people and their counselors as a forthright presentation that premarital sex is wrong. That significant chapter points out five important values which premarital sex devalues, and explodes ten "myths" concerning premarital sex — excuses which some young people offer in an attempt to justify it. The chapter quotes ten or twelve outstanding authorities in the field of Christian conduct and concludes with some "Reasons From the Wiser One" — ten vital Scripture references. There are other strong chapters, including "Does It Matter Whom I Marry?" and "Do These Things Matter Too?" — the latter including the matter of the social drink, the matter of church attendance, the matter

of honesty, and other vital questions. The book will be available at the Baptist Book Store.

**THE SWORD AND THE TROWEL**, Volume II, Years 1868, 1869, 1870, edited by C. H. Spurgeon (Pilgrim Publications, 402 pp., paper, \$5.95) A reprint of large portions of Spurgeon's monthly magazine for the years listed. Here are articles and other materials selected from this magazine which had such a wide reading during the ministry of the great London Baptist preacher. As one reads these pages he feels the touch of the life and ministry of the preacher and the church, and also of what was happening in the theological and religious world of that day. Evidently the publishers are planning to provide selections from all available volumes in their series. This will be preserving for modern readers some of the rich material of a century ago.

**DISTRESSING DAYS OF THE JUDGES** by Leon Wood (Zondervan, 434 pp., \$9.95) A carefully prepared study of that section of Bible history known as the days of the Judges. The author is professor of Old Testament studies and dean of the faculty at Grand Rapids Baptist Bible Seminary. The person who studies this book will have a comprehensive understanding of life in those days of the persons mentioned in the Bible text. It is not a commentary, but does give careful study of the scripture message.

**STRONG IN THE SPIRIT** by James Lee Beall (Revell, 160 pp., paper, \$2.95) An appeal for Christians to take advantage of the privilege of being "strong in the spirit." There are 21 chapters dealing with many subjects of Christian living. Each chapter is made up of brief paragraphs or sections with specific problems and experiences and scripture response or the biblical answer to them. The book will be helpful to those who need strength for their daily problems, and that means all of us.

**MODERN STORIES OF INSPIRATION**, Bill Stephens compiler (Broad-

man, 127 pp., \$1.95) Twelve stories from life, telling of spiritual experiences of individuals. These things actually happened to people, some of whom are widely known, such as Anita Bryant, and Jimmy Carter. As the title says, here are spiritual experiences which will inspire.

**BAPTISTS AND THEIR BELIEFS** by Oscar Gibson (Challenge Press, 64 pp., paper, \$1.25) A brief but valuable discussion of Baptists and their teaching. The first chapter deals with the name Baptist and the origin of the people called Baptists. Doctrines which are discussed are baptism, the Lord's Supper, church union, missions, salvation and security of the believer.

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE WALL STREET JOURNAL** by Carnegie Samuel Callan (John Knox Press, paper, 114 pp., \$3.95) The author examines the Wall Street Journal's "Gospel" of "Common sense realism, firm commitment to hard work and creativity in the trials of life," and asks the question if this doctrine of materialism is the answer to man's need. He says that there is hope in a Watergate world, but that it is found in the principles of love found in the teachings of Christ and not in the materialism of modern man.

**BELIEVE!** by Richard M. DeVos with Charles Paul Conn (Revell, 128 pp., \$4.95) This is the power of positive believing as revealed in the life of one man. This man is the president of Amway and his is one of the success stories of America. This is not a biography, but rather a presentation of the principles which helped give the success he has achieved. It is a testimony on how to make the American dream come true.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN PRAY** by Evelyn Christenson with Viola Blake (Victor Books, paper, \$1.75, 144 pp.) Here is down-to-earth, practical, and biblical teaching on prayer. It is teaching that has worked out in practice for thousands of women who have attended the author's prayer seminars.

**HOW TO BE NERVOUS AND ENJOY**

### THE BAPTIST FORUM

## Missionary Seeks Piano Tuning Device, Hymnals

Dear Dr. Odle:

I am writing to relate an interesting incident that came as a result of the Baptist Record and to ask for some help also.

We recently received a letter from a Mr. Fred Flavell of England; he had seen our names in the Baptist Record and wrote asking for stamps. He was high in praise of the Record and recalled with pleasure friends in Mississippi, especially Dr. Hudgins. It is a small world!

The help I need is in locating an electronic piano tuning device. A pastor here is capable of supplementing his income by tuning pianos and would greatly increase his skill with one of these devices. Do you think someone around there could put me in touch with a supplier of something of this sort?

We do not get our Record very often — boat mail takes 6-8 weeks to reach us — but we do enjoy reading the new "old" news when we get it. Many people send us letters surface mail and wonder why it takes us so long to answer! Air mail reaches us in about 7-10 days, and our postal service is not too efficient.

In a June Baptist Record you had a short article about what to do with old Baptist Hymnals when new ones were purchased. Could we add an additional use: send copies in good condition to missionaries in English language work areas. What a new life for an old hymnal! Keep up the good work in getting out the news dear to the hearts of all Mississippi Baptists.

Sincerely,  
Rev. John Jacobs  
Winward Islands Baptist Mission  
P. O. Box 174 GPO  
Roseau, Dominica, W.I.

## Mrs. Ford Not Sorry

Dear Dr. Odle:

I read your editorial this week about Mrs. Ford. You asked if it were possible that she was sorry that she said those things.

I saw her the following week in Colorado. They were talking to her in the street. It was raining and she was hurrying to get out of the rain. She didn't want her hair to get mussed.

The man asked her if she was sorry that she made those statements and her reply was Oh No. That is proof enough to me that she isn't sorry. I think that it is a sad thing that the first woman (not lady) of the land should go on TV before the whole world and discuss things that the Bible forbids being discussed only in secret. I'm afraid we have some very untrustworthy people at the head of our country. God have mercy on us.

Yours truly,  
Mary Frizzell Cottingham  
Crystal Springs, Miss.

**IT** by Roger H. Crook (Broadman, \$4.50, 136 pp.) This book will aid the reader in facing his anxieties and dealing with them confidently. A person with no "nerves" is not human. Mr. Crook believes a person can never get rid of "nerves" but that they can be channeled, to enable him to live victoriously and creatively with them.

**BETWEEN YOUR STATUS AND YOUR QUO** by Fay Angus (Gospel Light, paper, \$1.45, 87 pp.) Fay Angus, who has been called "an evangelical Erma Bombeck," gives an entertaining and inspiring look at the foibles of life and the life of faith.

**Light for Living**  
Chester E. Swor

## Oases In The Desert!

In the sickening news of the vast dishonesties which have screamed at us from the pages of newspapers and from radio and television newscasts in recent months and years, we may have felt the desire to recall the ancient Diogenes to return with his lantern in search of an honest person! Some, discouraged and pessimistic, have sighed, "Us anybody honest anymore?"

And though the "desert of dishonesty" in our land does appear to be vast, there are inspiring "oases" of instances in which individuals are demonstrating the life-saving honesty which maintains integrity for the individual, and which gives a wholesome pattern for society.

Did you read recently of the New York barber who found a money bag along the roadside, containing \$6,000, which he promptly turned over to the state police? \$1800 of the amount was in cash, which he could have appropriated for his personal needs, destroying the checks, but hear his refreshing explanation: "I could have used it, but it wasn't mine to keep. Everything I get, I work for."

A youngster, visiting a tourist attraction in a Southern city, found a wallet with a very large amount of cash and certified checks. Thanks to excellent training from her parents, she turned the "find" in to park officials, who found the owner. And, though the youngster would have enjoyed a more generous reward than she received, she made clear that she was no heroine for turning in the money; rather, she indicated, it was the only honest thing to do.

And there was this splendid high school athlete who had signed a grant-in-aid arrangement with one university and who was intensely pressured by another university in another athletic conference to violate his word and to accept the more lucrative offer of the second school. The more lucrative offer had no temptation for this athlete of integrity: he simply said with a crystal-clear conviction, "I wouldn't think of accepting your offer, because I have given my word to the other school."

We can be thankful that in the midst of the welter of dishonesties of our day, there are many wonderful people who are living their lives as Paul suggested to Roman Christians: "Provide things honestly in the sight of all men. . . . Let us walk honestly, as in the day. . . ." (Romans 12:17 and 13:13). We can pause at these "oases and springs in the desert"; and, while thanking God for people of integrity, search our own hearts with the question, "Am I honest to the core of my life?"

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# Johnny Cash: 'Man In Black' Found His Way Back To God

By James Lee Young  
NASHVILLE (BP) — Johnny Cash is billed as the "Man in Black." His life, as he tells it, made his friends, fans and family wonder more than once in times past, if they should ready their own black clothes in anticipation of his death.

This country-gospel singer and Christian, whose music is loved by fans from all generations, for a time was barely one step ahead of the "deceptive demons" of drugs and self destruction that threatened his life.

Cash sings a different tune now. He credits God with literally saving his earthly and spiritual lives.

But this entertainer, composer and singer of hits such as "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk the Line," "Hey, Porter," "Cry, Cry, Cry," and many others, once ran from God.

Now, he told Baptist Press, "I recommend Jesus Christ. . . When we find him, we find ourselves. . . We find a bond that holds. . ."

"I also heartily recommend church membership. There's a certain amount of security in being a part of a body of believers that can't be bought at any price," Cash advised, particularly aiming his comments at young people. Cash, raised a Baptist, now belongs to the independent Evangel Temple in Nashville, where Jimmy Snow, son of county musician Hank Snow, serves as pastor.

The personable singer made the comments as he left the Nashville Baptist Book Store where, surrounded by fans, he had just autographed copies of his autobiography, "Man in Black," Zondervan, 1975.

**Long Journey**  
Johnny Cash's long journey to success, hitting bottom, then finding new purpose and strength in living through Jesus Christ, began in his boyhood days in Arkansas.

As a lad in Dyess, Ark., he would stay up long into the night listening to gospel music on the radio. As he picked cotton and worked in the fields, he would sing for hours to pass the time.

Young Cash made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ at age 12, during a Baptist revival meeting in Dyess. The invitation song was an old favorite, "Just As I Am," he recalls.

His story from there is one of

always dreaming of making it big in music, of constantly being aware of God's hold on his life, even while running.

Cash cites at least three main positive influences in his younger years — his brother Jack and their mother and father. Jack, who was older and saved before Johnny, avowed he would be a minister, but that dream was not to be. He died after a tragic accident on a Saturday job, and his death left an empty place in young John's life.

Jack's influence had "taken" on Johnny, however — an influence for good that Cash was ultimately not to escape when his "pill

popping" habit and drinking later brought him wildly and dangerously close to death — even after he made it big as a country and gospel music star.

During a stint in the U.S. Air Force, where Cash recalls the usual three-day pass was spent boozing it up, he first fell in with a group of airmen who shared his love for music. They spent their leisure time picking and singing. But finally, Cash succumbed to drinking on weekends and began to grow more distant from his family, ties and Christian upbringing.

**In His Blood**  
Honorary discharged on July 4,

1954, Cash tried door-to-door selling to support his first wife, a devout Catholic, and their growing family. But music was in his blood, and he began to badger people who could open doors for the career he really wanted.

He was introduced to Marshall Grant, a bass player, and guitar player Luther Perkins, son of a Baptist minister from Mississippi. The three were at home with gospel music.

Their first public appearance was in a church in North Memphis, Tenn. None of the three had a nice suit, and the "only colored suits we had alike were black."

"Black will be better for church anyway," I said, so we wore black shirts and pants.

"To this day, when someone asks me why I wear black, I can never really think of a simple answer, so I often say, 'Black is better for church,'" Cash notes.

After several refusals for auditions by Sam Phillips, owner of Sun Record Company, who was then managing Elvis Presley, Cash finally sang for Phillips and was signed to a contract.

Johnny Cash hit the top, then hit bottom. He says that country and gospel music were not his undoing. In fact, one of the first country music stars Cash worked with after joining the music circuit was singer Sonny James.

"I knew him to be a truly committed Christian," among others in the field, Cash notes.

**Pills and Drinking**  
Rather, it was the pills and the drinking: Cash began to take amphetamines to stay awake and pep him up for the long road trips, long hours of sleeplessness; and endless, energy sapping, concerts — and barbiturates to bring him down again.

Cash's addiction to pills and his drinking began a long road and struggle of despair, the complete alienation of his family for a time, divorce, and near brushes with death.

Once, for example, he leaped from a truck he was driving just before it went over a 600-foot cliff in California. And there were others he attributes to the pills and drinking. Cancelled concerts and a problem of laryngitis plagued the singer, already world renowned for his talent.



Johnny and June Carter Cash perform with their group at the Mississippi Billy Graham Crusade in Jackson.

Country female vocalist June Carter — now Mrs. Cash — of the famed Carter Family, ministers, and other friends prayed for and stood by him. Finally, after he had been jailed seven times, a heartbroken sheriff who was a Johnny Cash fan released him from a cell, handed Cash his pills, and told the singer he could make his own choice — to kill himself taking pills or let God help him straighten up.

Cash chose the latter. He ultimately "surrendered" himself to God and began the hard, slow, climb back to health — with his faith in God; much prayer; and with June, a committed Chris-

tian, and others close by him. Cash admits he fell back for a time after progressing substantially.

But Johnny and June Carter Cash did not give up. Today they both have the reputation of being committed Christians. A film they produced, "Gospel Road," on the life of Christ, has been widely distributed by 20th Century Fox and later by Worldwide Pictures, Inc., a subsidiary of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Cash has given his Christian testimony internationally through his music, in mass evangelistic crusades, through the film, and now through his book.

## Bicentennial Feature

### Army Never Like This; Colonel Turns Evangelist

CULPEPPER COUNTY, Va., March, 1765 (BP) — Samuel Harris, a Baptist preacher who formerly served as a colonel in the militia, has reason to wonder if military life is not less hazardous than the ministry, observers note.

During recent visits to this county, where opposition to the established church is angrily persecuted, Harris twice has been the object of mob violence and was arrested once.

Invited to preach in the home of a Baptist in Culpepper County recently, Harris reportedly conducted his first meeting here without interference. He announced a second meeting for the following day and was met by a mob carrying sticks, whips, and clubs. The evangelist moved his meetings to another county to avoid violence, it is said.

Another time when Harris attempted to preach in Culpepper, a gang announced that the Baptist could not hold a meeting. When one of the preacher's friends objected to the interruption, witnesses said, a free-for-all broke out.

Fearing the preacher might suffer serious injury in the melee, friends spirited Harris to a house and posted a guard at the door. Those who opposed the meeting followed, however, battered down the door, and might have harmed Harris if his followers had not come to his aid. The gang succeeded in turning the meeting into a brawl, reports said.

Harris has been opposed by both the lawless and the law. Culpepper authorities had the preacher arrested at another time for "disturbing the peace," charging him with being "a vagabond, a heretic, a schismatic, and a mover of sedition everywhere." At his trial he was ordered not to preach again in the county within 12

months under penalty of a prison sentence.

Harris is one of the most prominent men of Pittsylvania County, Va., having served as church warden, colonel of the militia, captain of Fort Mayo, sheriff, justice of the peace, and in order influential positions. He was baptized in 1758 by Daniel Marshall, a pioneer itinerant Baptist evangelist in the South.

The former colonel has given himself without reservation to the Baptist cause, friends say. In addition to preaching with great boldness, they say, he has turned his comfortable home into a meetinghouse for Baptists and has generously shared his wealth with less prosperous neighbors and others in need.

## Pastoral Care Seminar Offered In Nashville

NASHVILLE — A seminar in pastoral care for pastors and other church staff members will be held Dec. 1-5, in the Church Program Training Center, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

The seminar deals with discovering new strengths in caring, counseling skills, building a caring team in the church, understanding family relationships and ministering to physical illness and death of church members.

Participants will develop new skills and update basic information on caring for persons in the church. Bob Dale, pastoral ministries consultant, church ministries section of the board's church administration department, will conduct the seminar.

Registration may be made by sending a \$20 registration fee to the Church Program Training Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

## Baptist Pastor And Family Held Hostage By Red Army

PETALING JAYA, Malaysia (BP) — A National Baptist pastor and his family were among the 50 hostages held in the US consulate in Kuala Lumpur by Japanese Red Army Guerrillas the first week in August.

Mr. and Mrs. Loh an Kwong and two of their sons, Loh Chong Shin and Loh Chung Chi, were among 53 hostages seized when five Red Army members stormed the 14-story office building, spraying gunfire around the ninth floor, the site of the U. S. passport office and the Swedish embassy.

Threatening to blow up the building, the terrorists demanded the release of seven Red Army comrades jailed in Japan.

When the 80-hour siege erupted, the Lohs were at the U. S. embassy as they completing arrangements for U. S. student visas for the sons who plan to study in the states.

Chung Chi was on another floor arranging for special documents when the terrorists locked his family, and the rest of the hostages in one of the rooms. He returned, saw the gunmen and thought a robbery was in progress. He began to run, but stopped when he was fired upon.

Mrs. Loh and Chung Chi were released just before noon, 55 hours after capture, on Wednesday. Au-

gust 6.

Loh, Chong Shin, and 13 other hostages, including U. S. Consul Robert Stebbins, were taken to the airport to wait a further 25 hours for four Japanese and Malaysian officials who went as substitute hostages on the flight to Libya, the only country which would accept the terrorists.

Throughout Malaysia and Singapore, Baptists, who were alerted by phone, prayed for the Loh family and the critical situation.

Hostages report the terrorists were considerate. At night when the temperature dropped, hostages say, the gunmen took off their own jackets and gave them to the women and spread carpets and draperies for them to sleep on.

At one point a child, who began to cry, was soothed by a terrorist who told the child he had nothing to fear.

When Loh identified himself as a pastor to the guerrillas, one asked if he was a Baptist. "Yes, I am a Baptist," Loh answered. "The Baptists had a big meeting in Tokyo a few years ago," stated the gunman.

Loh, realizing the meeting was the Baptist World Alliance which met in Tokyo in 1970, replied, "Yes, I know. I was there." The gunman smiled and turned away.

# Appoint More Blacks, Says Career Black Missionary

By James Lee Young  
NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' only black career foreign missionary wants a joint effort between National (black) and Southern Baptists to send more black Southern Baptist-sponsored missionaries abroad.

"Specific opportunities in Nigeria, for example, won't last forever," says Sue Thompson, only black career foreign missionary of the predominantly white 12.5 million-member Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Appointed in 1967, she was the first black to be named a career missionary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in over 80 years. Marva David Butler was chosen for the board's two-year missionary journeyman program in 1965 and served as a secretary in Santiago, Chile.

Three other blacks working under Foreign Mission Board sponsorship at present in the missionary journeyman program are a nurse in Barranquilla, Colombia; Mikel F. Robinson, a Bible teacher at Kumasi (Ghana) Academy

and Mary Ballance, teacher in commercial subjects in Nairobi, Kenya.

"National Baptists have the personnel and Southern Baptists have the money and programs for a joint effort," Miss Thompson told Baptist Press.

"I would like to see the Foreign Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention take the initiative in this — without paternalism. Any joint effort should be a two-way street," the attractive young woman stressed. "Southern Baptists could afford to make the financial sacrifice, with no strings attached." She has communicated her feelings to the Foreign Mission Board, she noted.

"I don't really know how blacks will receive it," she continues, "but I'm concerned primarily with a need for proclaiming the gospel in Africa."

Miss Thompson, a student worker stationed in Minna, Nigeria, serves seven or eight schools "comparable to high schools" and does some Baptist Student Union work on the university level. She

works with the Nigerian Baptist Convention and the Baptist Mission of Nigeria. (The latter is the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

The Foreign Mission Board notes it has never had stipulations against appointing blacks as missionaries. In fact, black missionaries were under the auspices of the SBC soon after its inception.

Blacks were serving as missionaries to Liberia in 1845 when the SBC was organized in Augusta, Ga. The missionaries, originally serving under the sponsorship of the Triennial Convention, the first nationwide body of Baptists, were all under SBC control by 1856.

Forty-five blacks were appointed to the Liberia Mission before the U.S. Civil War forced retrenchment of foreign missions, with the Liberian and other mission work later formally suspended. Blacks began organizing their own work, and the rise of black churches and conventions made the traditional cooperative efforts (Continued On Page 6)

**MISSIONARY TO NIGERIA** — Miss Sue Thompson, presently the only black career foreign missionary of the 12.5 million member Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), urges that a joint effort be initiated between National (black) and Southern Baptists to send more black missionaries abroad. Miss Thompson was the first black SBC career foreign missionary named in over 80 years, when she was appointed in 1967. National Baptists have the personnel, and Southern Baptists have the money and programs to enable sending of more blacks to foreign mission posts, she says. (BP) Photo by James Lee Young

# Houston Church Gets Guideposts' National Award

By Charlene Warnken  
HOUSTON (BP) — South Main Baptist Church here has been named the recipient of the annual Church Award of Guideposts' magazine on the basis of its work with single adults.

The national award has been given for the past 18 years to churches around the country that have "dedicated themselves to the service of God and man with an imagination and energy conspicuously beyond the normal call of religion."

Guideposts is an interfaith monthly magazine with more than seven million readers. The founder and publisher is Norman Vincent Peale.

South Main has done perhaps more than any other church in the Southern Baptist Convention to minister to the divorced. A special center for single adult activities, the Main Point, was opened two years ago under the direction of Dan Yeary, then a South Main staff member.

"Divorce can happen to two people who both think they love God and are serving Him," said Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main.

"It is not our job to hunt out the guilty and punish them, nor to hunt out the innocent and canonize them. We are hunting out the people who hurt and are trying to help them."

The response to the church's special ministry has been overwhelming. Out of 95 attending the first session, 90 never had

been to South Main before. Many were not Baptists.

The church offers a divorce seminar three times a year. The seminar is a five - week course on Wednesday nights. It includes a talk by Chafin on Biblical hope for the divorced, a session by counselor Nancy Potts on coping with grief and suggestions from Yeary on "how to begin again."

"Divorces are like car wrecks," Chafin said. "People can survive them, but they seldom are the same. What impresses me about this award is that it will call this ministry to the attention of other churches in other denominations. There aren't any communities left where there isn't this need."

One out of every three adults in the U. S. is single. Houston has more than 150,000 single adults, many of them formerly married.

Main Point offers not only seminars, but counseling services, growth groups, Bible studies and classes teaching everything from cooking for men to mechanics for women. Entertainment includes theater in the round and appearances of celebrities.

"This ministry really has focused our attention on marriage and the family with an intensity we never experienced before," Chafin said.

The result has been an accelerated ministry to married and about - to - be married couples by Bob Hines at South Main.

One seminar featured a psychiatrist who met for several weeks with about 50 couples to discuss marital problems.

"We in no way are idealizing divorce, but the breakup of a marriage does not mean you have failed your whole life," Chafin said. "There are some very whole persons who are single. The stereotype of singles as incompetent persons has been completely fractured by our experience."

Many divorced persons are "bleeding," however, Chafin acknowledged. As many as 1,500 of those persons have been helped by the South Main ministry.

"We have 700 persons coming on a regular basis," Chafin said, "I recently read that when a group of really unhappy people get together, the phrase they most often use is 'if only.' The phrase we would like them to use is 'next time.'"

Yeary has left South Main to accept the pastorate of the University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla. South Main is searching for a new minister of single adults to carry on his work. The church will sponsor a conference on single adult ministry next year, inviting other churches to attend and learn from its rich experience.

The Guideposts award, a crystal obelisk designed by Tiffany & Company, will be presented to South Main in October.

Charlene Warnken is religion editor of the Houston Post. She nominated South Main Baptist Church for the Guideposts award.



## Names In The News

Melinda Henderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Guy Henderson, missionaries to the Philippines, married Russell Kyzar July 18 in Clinton, Miss. Her parents, currently in the States on furlough, may be addressed at 2334 Coronet Place, Jackson, Miss. 39204.

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. J. Cannata Jr., missionaries to Ethiopia, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4366 Lake Shore Drive, Waco, Tex. 76710).

The September issue of HOME LIFE carries a story by Jean Ross entitled "Treasures From A Rich Life." Mrs. Ross, nee Tommie Jean Irvin, is a native of Laurel. She has lived in several Mississippi towns where her husband, William H. Ross, served as pastor. At present they live in Huntsville, Alabama, where Mr. Ross has served as pastor of Mountain View Church for seven years.

Valley Park Church has awarded to Mrs. Gordon Holloway a pin for 24 years of perfect attendance at Sunday school. On August 17 the Valley Park Church had the largest SS attendance since September 1971, according to Rev. Leon Ivey, pastor.



Gerald O'Dom is the new pastor of Shelton Church near Moselle, Jones County. Ordained in May of this year, he is serving his first pastorate. He and his wife, the former Andreae Frasier, above, are both natives of Waynesboro and are both age 19. A graduate of Jones County Junior College, he is now enrolled at William Carey College.

Neron Smith became the minister of education at First, Natchez, on August 25. The Magnolia native who graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary goes to Natchez from the post as minister of education of Sherwood Church, Albany, Georgia. He and his wife, the former Carolyn Bond of Magnolia, have two children, Jeffrey, 11, and Jan, 8. Rev. Odean Puckett is pastor at First, Natchez.

Mary Sampson, missionary to Taiwan, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 8133 Blaine Rd., Richmond, Va. 23235).

Kenneth Pope, former Mississippian, is one of the top three new administrators appointed at Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri. Mr. Pope will be the academic dean. He has taught mathematics at the college for nine years, and was in charge of career education for the last two years. He will oversee the college faculty, the school's curriculum, the career and continuing education programs, and the registrar's office. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Hardin Pope of Jackson, who attend Parkway Church.

Southside Church of Jackson has licensed Lonnie Johnston, an architectural draftsman and estimator in Jackson, to the gospel ministry. He is currently teaching a class of men in the adult Sunday School Department at Southside and speaking each Tuesday evening at the Gateway Rescue Mission. Mr. Johnston is a native of Pike County and has taken courses at Hinds Junior College and at Mississippi College. He is available for supply or pastoral work adjacent to the Jackson area.

Mr. and Mrs. Peyton M. Moore, formerly missionaries to Vietnam, have been reassigned to Indonesia (address: Box 56, Bandung, Indonesia).

Mr. and Mrs. Jerald W. Ferrill, formerly missionaries to Laos now in the States, may be addressed at 3310 Springwood Place, Dallas, Tex. 75233.



Oak Grove Church (Clarke) has licensed Dennis Davall to the gospel ministry. The Mississippi College junior is available for pulp supply or interim pastoral ministry. While a student at Jones Junior College, he was very active in BSU work. Above, left, he is receiving a certificate of license to the gospel ministry from pastor H. W. Nix.

Roy J. Wood has surrendered to preach and was licensed to the ministry on August 24 by East Howard Church, Biloxi, Rev. Richard Frees, pastor.



Gilbert Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Ray, missionary associates to Thailand, married Rebecca Danice Strain on May 10, 1975, in Greenwood, Miss.



DR. LEWIS CURTIS of Baptist Bible Institute greets Dr. Jerry Mixon and Richard Miller for summer chapel services. Evangelist Mixon of Petal was on a speaking tour of Florida. The evangelist also spoke at Doozier School for Boys in which 50 students made professions of faith. Dr. Curtis is a former resident of Mississippi.



Owon Chung Lee is the first Korean to enroll at William Carey. He poses above, center, discussing his homeland with vice-president for development, Dr. Hugh Dickens, left, and his uncle, Young Lee, head librarian at Carey College. Owon Chung Lee is not only the first Korean student, he is the first international graduate student to study in the recently established master's program.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 200, 17600 Tupa, Sao Paulo, Brazil).

Dr. and Mrs. Van W. Williams III, missionaries to India, may be addressed at 433 Rajmahal Ext., Bangalore 560006, India.

## A Fall Festival Of Music

Sunday - September 14-7:00 p.m.  
City Auditorium  
Jackson, Mississippi

featuring the  
Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra  
of First Baptist Church  
Jackson, Mississippi Frank D. Pollard, Pastor  
Larry Black, Minister of Music

With Special Guests  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronn Huff  
and Dave Boyer

## Composers And Arrangers Invited To "An Evening With Bob Burroughs"

Bob Burroughs of Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama, well-known composer and arranger, will be the guest of the Church Music Department, MBCB, and speaker of the evening at a dinner for Mississippi composers and arrangers on October 23 in Jackson.

Persons having published materials as well as those with unpublished compositions, musicians interested in knowing how to write, and composition students will benefit by attending this "Evening with Bob Burroughs." Mr. Burroughs will be sharing ideas and information from his own experiences in the field of

composition, as well as presenting some of the materials that he uses in his composition classes at Samford.

There will also be a "sharing" session during the afternoon in which persons present will have an opportunity to read and hear each other's music.

Invitations will be extended to those persons having already submitted materials to the Church Music Department during the year, but attendance will not be limited to these people.

Anyone interested in this should write to the Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205.

## Charges Against Mrs. Graham Dismissed In Federal Court

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (RNS) — Assault and battery charges that had been filed against Mrs. Ruth Bell Graham were dismissed by a District Court judge here.

Judge William Robinson ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove that the wife of evangelist Billy Graham had assaulted an anti-war protester during a Bicentennial celebration here last May.

President Ford was speaking at the outdoor rally, and observers

said Daniel Lewis Pollock, 27, stationed himself with a protest poster between television cameras and the platform.

Although all agreed that Mrs. Graham had taken the sign away from him, Mr. Pollock failed to establish to the satisfaction of the court that she had pushed him.

At the conclusion of the brief trial, Mrs. Graham attempted to hand a Bible to Mr. Pollock, but he declined to accept it.

## "I Can Never Pay My Debt To The Cooperative Program"

By Jerry W. Stevens  
Pastor, Calvary, Columbus  
I get mad when I hear someone speaking against the Cooperative Program.

I was saved when I was about twelve years old. I joined the church with my mother and father. Their church didn't give to the Cooperative Program. When I was twenty years old, we moved to a town where the Southern Baptist church was strong. I went, I heard, I saw. I joined the church. I began to learn about Southern Baptists. Soon I was married. We began to support the church. We found that we were supporting all kinds of ministries and missions around the world.

The church elected me as a deacon. They selected me as finance chairman. We wanted to support our mission effort. We tried to increase our percentage giving every year.

The Lord called us to the full-time ministry. We enrolled in Blue Mountain College, which is a Baptist college and supported by the Cooperative Program. Having a family of four to support on a pastor's salary was trying. Churches furnished us a scholarship.

The Lord led us to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. It, too, was supported by the Coop-

erative Program. While there we received additional help. It was furnished to us because someone willed or gave to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

Therefore, you can see that my education was supported by Baptists. While in school, my family was supported by the churches we pastored, Midway in Pontotoc County, First Baptist, Nicholson, Pearl River County, plus scholarships from other Baptists.

Thus, I owe quite a lot to the Southern Baptist Convention and its churches. The greater debt of gratitude is owed to Midway Baptist Church, Pontotoc County, that let me pastor and go to college, and to First Baptist Church, Nicholson, Pearl River County, that let me pastor and go to seminary.

How can I ever repay my debt? Well, I hope I can develop givers in the churches, and churches that will support the Cooperative Program. I must say, "Thank you, Southern Baptist Convention, churches, members and fellow pastors. I owe you a lot."

So you see, I get mad when I hear someone speaking or writing against the Cooperative Program. But then, I cool off and think to myself, "That man just doesn't know. He hasn't been where I've been."

## "Appoint More Blacks"

(Continued From Page 5)

between whites and blacks less practical.

The SBC Constitution stipulates that all missionaries must be members of Baptist churches cooperating with the convention. Out of 12.5 million Southern Baptists, the board has a small group of blacks, statistically speaking from which to draw potential candidates.

According to estimates about 70,000 blacks are members of SBC-affiliated churches; some are black churches dually aligned with the SBC and a national black convention.

While this is a sizable number of black Baptists, a board spokesman noted that applicants among blacks for Southern Baptist foreign mission appointment have been anything but high. No statistics of foreign mission applicants by race were available.

During her tenure as the denomination's only black career foreign missionary, Miss Thompson has encountered "little racism" among the missionaries. "It hasn't been a severe enough problem for me to have to confront anyone personally," she notes.

Nor has Miss Thompson encountered much of a problem as a woman on the missionary field. She has served on several mission organization committees and has "not felt discussion was even against me as a black or as a woman."

If her acceptance by the white missionaries has been good, Miss Thompson feels "at one" with the Nigerians. "Nigerians, other Africans and people around the world have asked me 'Why don't Southern Baptists have more black missionaries?'"

Christianity has come to be identified as a white, western cultural religion, particularly in Africa although the growth of Christianity in the Third World nations may eventually offset that, Miss Thompson noted.

In Nigeria, she said, there is some mistrust and suspicion of whites among the educated and government officials, "more so than among the masses." But there's not pronounced racism in Nigeria, she added. Miss Thompson noted she has received negative reaction from some black Baptists in the United States because of her Southern Baptist affiliation.

"But the Nigerians want more black missionaries. The names they have given me are 'Omodele,' meaning 'child returns home,' and 'Ajoke,' meaning 'We love you.'"

Miss Thompson's first contacts with Southern Baptists were the racist ones.

"I almost left the organized church as a teenager because of racism. With whites, it was their hating of blacks and their lack of love. With blacks, I saw a lack of seriousness in carrying on the work of Christ, and I didn't see any educational programs for the young people."

"Blacks reached out to whites for many years and were rejected. But now whites, Southern Baptists especially, are reaching out and blacks appear to be rejecting them. I think I can understand blacks' separatist attitudes at present," she noted.

However, Miss Thompson said, there is no place for separation or isolation in Christianity and both races have been guilty of these.

"Some Southern Baptists say that when we get more blacks in SBC churches, then there will be more black missionaries. . . but you can't expect blacks to join Southern Baptist churches en masse nor expect them all to become Southern Baptists." An answer instead, she said, is greater cooperation between the conventions in missionary endeavors, such as the joint effort she proposed.

Attending Baptist Student Union (BSU), Southern Baptists' organization for college and university students, changed her outlook on Christianity and Southern Baptists, Miss Thompson said. Her "call to missions" was the result of a summer's mission work in New Orleans as a college student.

"I was the only black in the BSU at Central Missouri State University" in Warrensburg, "but I decided to give it a chance."

A former school teacher, Miss Thompson said her first "genuine relations with Southern Baptists" came as a student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, from which she was graduated in 1967.

She joined Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, where John Claypool, now pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, had led the people to meet the issue of race and integration.

"God answered my prayer. I was well received by the students and faculty at Southern and at Crescent Hill Church. The church had already gone through racial tensions, so there were really no problems for me racially. I taught a Sunday School class and had an afterschool club in the church's weekday program," leading in Bible study, recreation and crafts, she said.

When she first entered the "white situation," Miss Thompson recalled, "there were some psychological adjustments that amounted to a struggle about being used by Southern Baptist as a token."

"It's not a problem with me now. I feel I'm doing what God wants me to do. I have a worthwhile ministry to whites and blacks in the U.S. and overseas. In some small way I feel I'm contributing to reconciliation."

SHIZUOKA, Japan — Five new churches were admitted into the Japan Baptist Convention when they met in annual session at the Amagi Baptist Retreat here recently. The five new churches bring the total number of self-supporting Baptist churches in Japan to 167. Positive growth is also reflected, according to Lois (Mrs. Charles L. Jr.) Whaley, Southern Baptist missionary, in a 20 per cent increase in the number of baptisms reported during the past 12 months.

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## Mississippi Newsbriefs

## Just For The Record



## Yale Street Burns Building Note

Burning the building note for the Yale Street Church, Cleveland, are from left, Rev. Bobby Walton, pastor, Rev. J. S. Dorroh, former pastor, and James C. Greep, chairman of deacons. The note burning ceremony was held on August 10.

## Longview Calls Buckley

Rev. Benny Buckley has accepted the pastorate of Longview Church, Oktibbeha County. He and his wife, Brenda, moved there from Finger, Tennessee. He was formerly pastor of Old Friendship Church in Chester County.

Son of Hardy and Sarah Buckley of Hickory, Mississippi, Mr. Buckley attended East Central Junior College, Decatur, and Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel.

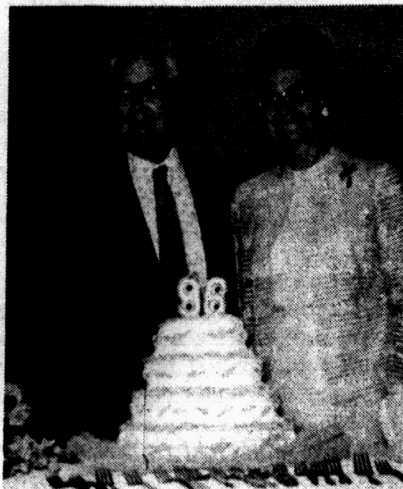
The members of Longview honored the new pastor and wife with a "welcome shower."

## Mantee Calls Dennis Johnsey

Rev. Dennis L. Johnsey of Corinth, who in July graduated from Southwestern Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree, has accepted the pastorate of Mantee Church at Mantee.

Mr. Johnsey formerly served at First, Carthage as assistant pastor and youth director. He attended Northeast Miss. Junior College and Mississippi State University.

Mrs. Johnsey is the former Klydell Singletary of Starkville.



## Serving The Lord At 96

A reception was held in the fellowship hall of Westwood Church, Meridian, on Sunday afternoon, August 24, honoring the oldest member, C. A. (Uncle Gus) Mathews on his 96th birthday. Mr. Mathews attends Sunday School regularly and ushers in the Sunday morning worship service. Shown with her husband is Mrs. Mathews who is one of the adult Sunday School teachers.

"These people are an inspiration to the younger people as they continue to serve their Lord in their older years," says Rev. W. Buford Usry, pastor.

ST. DAVID'S Bermuda—D. D. Smothers, retired Louisiana pastor, has accepted a six-month interim pastorate at the First Baptist Church here.

## Lincoln County Senior Citizens Meet At Central

Central Church, Brookhaven was host to the senior citizens of Lincoln County on Saturday, August 30. The program prepared by Rev. Larry Barlow, Mt. Moriah, and Mike Grim, Central included: Bible teaching by Rev. Rowe Holcomb, retired pastor of First Church, Hazlehurst; information from the Society Security office and bank in regard to the automatic depositing of social security checks; games by Mr. Barlow and Mrs. Glen Schilling; a comedy film; a pot luck supper.

Four churches were represented, with a total of 75 senior citizens and three pastors, Rev. H. Glen Schilling, Central; Rev. Vic Johnson, Heuck's Retreat, and Rev. Larry Barlow, Mt. Moriah.

## On Your Own

Play it straight — it's better to be knocked down by strangers than double-crossed by friends.

## MC Seminary Extension Center Offers Three Courses This Fall

The Mississippi College Seminary Extension Center will offer three courses for church and lay workers during the fall semester which will open on Monday, Oct. 6, according to Dr. Eugene I. Farr, director.

Available on Monday night will be Hosea, a study of the book of Hosea, taught by Dr. E. R. Pinson, former chairman of the Division of Religion at Mississippi College.

Courses to be taught on Tuesday night will be Introduction to the New Testament, a study of the life of Christ, taught by Dr. Farr, professor emeritus at the college; and Biblical Backgrounds, a study of the history, geography and archaeology of Bible lands and people, taught by Dr. Howard E. Spell, professor emeritus and former dean of the college.

## Pine Grove Calls Dr. B. F. Smith

Dr. B. F. Smith of Hattiesburg has been called as pastor of Pine Grove Church, Ellisville. He and Mrs. Smith, the former Gertrude Bass, have moved into the pastor's home. The home, a brick four-bedroom, all electric structure, has never been occupied by a pastor regularly and it was formally dedicated Sunday morning, August 31. Open house was observed the same day.

Before going to the faculty of Carey College, where he retired in 1972, Dr. Smith was pastor of First Church, Magnolia and had previously served at Durant and Lyon.

He holds Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary, Bachelor of Arts from Louisiana College and Master of Arts from University of Southern Mississippi.

He is the author of Christian Baptism and Training Union curriculum materials.

Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Mississippi Woman's College, did graduate work at USM and taught biology at Carey for several years. The Smiths have a daughter, Mrs. H. D. Carleton of Vicksburg and a son, Riley, with Sub Sea International and who is located in Aberdeen, Scotland, and three grandchildren.

## Devotional

## Christians Are Different

I Peter 2:9-12

By Charles Stubblefield, Pastor, Ecru

Have you wondered what the functions are of today's church? Have you wondered what the life of the church member should be? Then in answer to this wondering Peter gives a summary of the functions of the church and the duty of every member.



Coloured by the Old Testament descriptions of the High Priest, Peter uses the same descriptions for the church and the Christian as being God's true Israel. These promises given so very long ago are being fulfilled in the church today.

It is a great delight to be a Christian. Such persons are here described as being chosen of God. It might be said that Christians are chosen by grace, cleansed for obedience, and called for service. This description declares them to be a priesthood. And as priests they have right access to God, to enter into his presence, to offer gifts, and to bring others to him. He calls them a peculiar people. This peculiar difference may come because of the family to whom they belong and because of the service they render in their father's name. He declares them to be a praising people because of their deliverance out of darkness and from hell.

Christians are different in their deportment. The admonition here is inward. This admonition is to abstain from fleshly lusts, or the sins of the flesh. This means far more than any sexual deviation of man before God. It means the nature of man unredeemed and unregenerate and apart from God. Such a life lived without the influence and nature of God would be a life without standards or rules of conduct and behaviour. It would be a life free to engage in any or all excesses of lust and sins. The admonition is for the Christian to abstain from such conduct and manner of living. Their lives are to be different.

Christians are different in their duty. The second admonition is outward. This outward duty is for the Christian to walk in the Gentile world in such a way that the believer's whole way of life will hush the mouth of every accuser and witness to every unbeliever. It is not enough for a believer to refrain from some action that is questionable. This negative action must be replaced with the positive action of the redeemed, regenerate life lived with such wholeness and godliness that the lost Gentile world will be turned to God.

The call to the church today is just as great as the day Peter gave this admonition. The lives of Christians must be different before a world without God can be made different.

## New Pastor On Field At Mt. Olive Church

Rev. Roger Stacy is the new pastor at Mt. Olive Church near Okolona in Chickasaw County. He and his wife and year-old daughter, Sonya Faith, at right, have moved on the field there, where he was evangelist for the summer revival.

Mr. Stacy is a junior at Blue Mountain College and previously attended Clarke. His wife has also attended Clarke and Blue Mountain.

Previous pastorates included Fellowship (Chickasaw) and College Hill Heights (Lafayette).



## FBC, Jackson's Sanctuary Choir To Present "Fall Festival Of Praise"

The Sanctuary Choir of First Church, Jackson will present "A Fall Festival of Praise" at the Jackson City Auditorium on Sunday night, September 14, at 7 p.m. The 200 voice choir, accompanied by the orchestra, will sing three sections of music. The first section will be a praise section, the second a patriotic theme and the third will depict the life of Jesus. Multi-media will be used during the patriotic section and a set and scrim will be used during the final section to depict scenes presenting the birth, death and resurrection of Christ.

Special guest will be baritone soloist Dave Boyer. Mr. Boyer's promising musical career once was nearly shattered by alcohol and drugs, but he did a remarkable turnaround and since has carried a singing and performing gospel message to tens of thousands.

In addition to Mr. Boyer, the Ronn Huff family will be guests of the Choir. A well known arranger-composer, Ron has worked with the First Baptist Choir on numerous occasions. Ronn's wife Donna will be accompanist for

Mr. Boyer and Dan Huff will play guitar with the orchestra. Ronn will also conduct the orchestra in an arrangement of his which features audience participation.

## Homecoming Set For Bethlehem, Laurel

Homecoming has been set for Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel, on Sunday, September 14. The day also recognizes the 10th anniversary of the auditorium. Dinner will be served on the grounds after the morning worship service.

Special recognition will be given at the service to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Balch, who each have taught Sunday school classes for about 40 years, and who have served in many other capacities in the church. They celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7. A special tribute has been prepared in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Balch.

## Pinson To Leave Seminary For Texas Pastorate

WICHITA FALLS, Tex. (BP)—William M. Pinson Jr., professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, has been named pastor-elect of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls.

Pinson, 41, interim pastor at the 7,000-member church for about seven months, will assume full-time duties there in January. He succeeds Landrum P. Leavell II, who resigned to accept the presidency of New Orleans Seminary, Jan. 1.

Pinson will continue to teach through December, 1975, at Southwestern Seminary.

A member of the Southwestern faculty since 1963, Pinson, a Fort Worth native, is a well-known author and speaker. He has written more than a dozen books, including a 13-volume work, "Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching," he co-authored with Clyde Fant, then a Southwestern professor and now pastor of First Baptist Church, Richardson, Tex.

## E. A. McDowell, Retired Seminary Prof., Dies At 77

ATLANTA (BP)—Edward Allison McDowell, 77, retired seminary professor, Atlanta minister and Mercer University professor, died here August 25.

The South Carolina native was professor of Greek and New Testament at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., 1935-1952.

He then taught at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., until 1964, when he became minister of teaching at First Baptist Church in Atlanta. McDowell later became distinguished professor of Christianity at Mercer University in Atlanta until his retirement in 1974.

Funeral services were held Aug. 27 in Atlanta. Burial was to be at Wake Forest, N. C. The family request that in lieu of flowers gifts be made to the E. A. McDowell Chair of Applied Christianity at Furman University, Greenville, S. C.



Giving the bell its first ring are Mrs. Kay Hudson, church secretary, and the pastor, Dr. Fred Womack. Looking on are the deacons, (left to right), Nelson McCarty, Robert Castle, Richard Williams, and Bob Reynolds (Ray Hudson not pictured).

## Wildwood Dedicates Church Bell

Sunday, September 7, at 9:20 a.m., Wildwood Church, south of Clinton at the corner of Springridge Road and Auburn Drive, dedicated an old church bell recently acquired from Mrs. I. G. Riley of Jackson. The bell, weighing more than 1000 pounds, was dedicated in memory of I. G. Riley and Mrs. Vernella Moulder Riley, daughter of the late Rev. D. W. Moulder. The bell will temporarily be housed atop a 9 ft. frame and later will be placed in the tower of the future church sanctuary.

Wildwood Church was constituted less than 10 months ago with 32 charter members. Since that time the church has grown to a present membership of 115.

Further, construction will start within the next few days on the church's first \$100,000 multi-purpose building unit. In the meantime, an office trailer has been bought and placed on the grounds to provide extra needed Sunday School space.

The pastor is Dr. Fred Womack.

## Organ Chair Established At Southern Seminary By Foundation

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The V. V. Cooke Foundation of Louisville has established a new V. V. Cooke Chair of Organ at Southern Seminary, and the seminary's trustees have named professor Donald Paul Hustad as the chair's first occupant.

Cooke, a prominent automobile dealer and longtime trustee of the seminary, died in 1973. He was an accomplished church organist at the age of 12 and was a strong supporter of the seminary's School of Church Music from its founding in 1944.

He purchased and gave to the seminary a large home near the campus as the first headquarters of the new music school. That

building is now the seminary president's home.

The current \$800,000 home of the music school, built in 1970 with funds from the Cooperative Program, was named Cooke Hall in his honor.

The Cooke Foundation, organized by the Baptist layman to provide for charitable institutions, has made endowment gifts of more than \$200,000 to Southern Seminary over the past two years, in addition to the establishment of the new chair of organ, for which annual operating funds will be provided by the foundation.

Hustad, a former member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team, joined the seminary faculty in 1966.

## Off The Record

At one time, when he was occupying a London flat, Sir Thomas Beecham had a neighbor who played her radio loudly at all hours. Unable to concentrate on his scores, the conductor, on a number of occasions, asked the lady to lower the volume, but she ignored his requests. One day, the blare was so shattering that he decided to fight fire with fire. The following morning, instead of going to the concert hall, he had the brass section of his orchestra report to his flat for rehearsal. Beecham stuffed his ears with cotton and led them through a one-hour rehearsal that caused the building to shake. The desired effect was achieved. The lady ran up the white flag and turned down her radio. (St. Louis Post Dispatch).

A lawyer tore excitedly into court and asked that a new trial be granted a client found guilty the day previous. "I've uncovered new evidence" declared the lawyer.

"Of what nature?" asked the judge.

"My client," the lawyer told him, "has an extra five thousand dollars, and I only found out about it this morning." — American Opinion.

A salesman growing nervous about traveling by air went to see a statistician one day.

"Can you tell me," he asked "what the odds would be against my boarding an aircraft on which somebody had hidden a bomb?"

"I can't tell you until I've analyzed the available data," the statistician replied. "Come back again in a week or so."

"Well," the worried salesman asked on his next visit, "do you have the answer?"

"Certainly," the statistician said. "The odds are one million to one against your getting on an aircraft with one bomb on it."

"Those are good odds," the salesman mused, "but I'm not sure they're good enough for me. I travel a good deal."

"Well, if you really want to be safe," the statistician said, "carry a bomb with you. The odds are one billion to one against your boarding an aircraft with two bombs on it."

## Revival Results

Longview (Oktibbeha): August 10-16; Rev. Benny Buckley, new pastor at Longview, evangelist;

Leon Merritt of Louisville, singer; one profession of faith; four additions by letter.



This group from Old Silver Creek Church really got "high on Jesus" as Evangelist Wylie Heath took them for an airplane ride during their week of revival. The pastor, Rev. Skip Barnett, and about fifty children and adults enjoyed an afternoon of flying with Wylie, who ministers to the children in revivals by taking them flying. The people and the pastor said it was "the greatest revival Old Silver Creek has had in many years. Several people were saved and many Christians made new commitments to the Lord and the church was strengthened and edified."